

BSU fund passes goal; students make reports

By Nay Reed

The theme for the 1982 Baptist Student Union summer missions program has been "Your moment in missions... a world awaits." The 64 BSU summer missionaries are beginning to think in terms of returning home in a couple of weeks as school will be getting underway and the 1983 student mission program will begin to take shape. Each year students give and raise the entire financial support for the summer missions program. The goal this year was \$60,000. Students have given a total of \$62,869.02 so far this year.

Some of the summer missionaries have shared exciting and challenging experiences with us.

RHONDA STAMPS

(Mississippi College) Spain

"Mike & Dalia Gonzales were waiting for me at the airport. The plane came in about an hour late. They had no trouble spotting me out. They said I was the typical tourist; big suitcase, camera, etc. Saturday, we baptized six candidates. The reason we had it on Saturday was because the church here in Gerona doesn't have a baptistry. It was never finished. The money ran out. We went to Figueras, a town north of here. It was beautiful!"

TIM GLAZE (Mississippi College) Singapore

"I am pleased to report that the sun does shine on this side of the world... even if I could not figure out what time of day it was my first couple of days here. The work here is going great. I've been at the 'center' for the past week. We are in the middle of our second session of VBS. I'm the director for

the entire school and a teacher for the older youth. Attendance was down compared to last year's—but if you ask me I don't know what we would have done with the kids if any more came! I do miss my friends back home and ask for your continued prayers... there is a lot going on here. My day begins at 6:30 and ends at 8:00 p.m. or later, but I enjoy it very much."

JAMIE VERELL (University Medical Center) Ghana

"Many times I feel that I have gone back in time to the time when Jesus walked on the earth. Many of the stories of the Old Testament have seemed more real after being here where they mash and grind their corn, tend their fields with oxen for the heavy work, and men have more than one wife. Please pray that we will be

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Both Youth Night sessions will have Leavell, Clawson

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night is August 13 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. This year's program will be led by Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and by Cynthia Clawson.

Leavell will be the featured speaker for the meeting which will take place

in two identical sessions. The first session will be 6:30-8 p.m. and the second one will be 9-10:30 p.m.

There are two sessions simply to accommodate all the young people who attend the program. Any group or individual from any part of the state will be admitted to either session. There is no charge for the program.

Theme of the meetings is "Finest Hour" which is the title of a song Miss Clawson has recorded.

Cynthia Clawson was honored in 1980 and again in 1981 as gospel

music's top vocalist with Dove Awards given by the Gospel Music Association. And she won a Grammy this year for her part in the gospel album "The Lord's Prayer."

Leavell went to the seminary as president in 1975 from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex. Earlier, he was pastor of the following Mississippi churches: Union, near Magnolia; Crosby, Crosby; First, Charleston; and First, Gulfport.

The program is sponsored annually by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Baptists help Argentine, Paraguayan flood victims

FORMOSA, Argentina (BP)—The worst flood in Paraguay's history and the second worst of the century in northern Argentina left at least 80,000 people homeless and Baptists are working to provide food and shelter for stricken families.

Relief funds totaling \$20,000 from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board are allowing Southern Baptist missionaries, the Evangelical Baptist Convention of Paraguay and Brazilian Baptist missionaries to aid flood victims in four areas of Paraguay.

In Argentina, Baptist home missionaries Andres and Lidia Rivas, using funds from the FMB, are distributing food and clothing to residents of Formosa, Clorinda, and other towns in the region. At least 20 Baptist families left homeless by flooding have been sheltered in two Baptist churches in the two cities according to Southern Baptist missionary Sarah Wilson. The FMB has released \$23,040 in hunger and relief funds for aid in the Argentine area.

Wilson, relief coordinator for Southern Baptist missionaries in Argentina, reported that part of the funds will be used to repair homes of Baptist families affected by flooding in the area. The water was expected to crest July 25-26, but will take weeks to recede, Wilson said.

Swollen by torrential rains, the Paraguay River and its tributaries poured water reaching nine meters above flood stage into the province of Formosa. Some 10,000 people living in the provincial capital, Formosa, abandoned their homes and half the population of nearby Clorinda (pop. 21,000) evacuated.

The Iguazu River in Misiones Province also is flooding. According to local authorities, the raging river has turned the famed Iguazu Falls into one enormous torrent that will submerge the adjacent national park. Tourists in

the area were reportedly not in danger, however.

Paraguay

In Paraguay the flood has been equally as devastating. Gilbert Nichols, director of the Baptist institute in Asuncion, told the Baptist Record that the flooding Paraguay River had created hardships from conception in the north past Asuncion and on south to Alverde, which is across the Paraguay River from the Argentine city of Formosa.

The Paraguay Baptist convention and the Baptist mission are using emergency funds provided by the Foreign Mission Board. The Baptist mobile medical clinic is being used to alleviate suffering. The Baptists are working wherever there is a need, including efforts to aid a group of Maca Indians. The Indians have been flooded out of their homes and have moved close to Asuncion.

The low-income section of Asuncion known as Chacarita lies right on the river bank and was entirely covered by flood waters. Only the tops of the houses were visible, Nichols said. The Baptist goodwill center in Chacarita has been evacuated. Some of the furniture was moved out, and some was left tied to the rafters.

Nichols noted that a team from Mississippi could find a meaningful ministry during clean-up operations from the flood, with the goodwill center as a base of operations. The major emphasis would be on working with children. There would need to be medical personnel, dental personnel, evangelists, and musicians. "We will need any ministry that would be connected with a goodwill center," he said.

MBMC offers to manage West Scott

By Jean May

The board of trustees of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) has approved a move by the medical center to enter into a management affiliation with West Scott County Hospital in Morton. MBMC is operated by trustees elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention. West Scott County Hospital is owned by the Scott County board of supervisors.

According to MBMC Executive Director Paul J. Pryor, MBMC will form a tax-exempt, non-profit, Mississippi corporation, West Scott Baptist Hospital, Incorporated (WSBH), which will manage the affairs of the 30-bed hospital, maintaining and improving its level of operation and services to the community and its medical staff.

The governing bodies of both hospitals and the Scott County Board of Supervisors—who will retain ownership of the Morton hospital—have approved the management affiliation. However, approval of the move by the Mississippi Health Care Commission, and various legal arrangements remain to be worked out before the affiliation can be undertaken.

MBMC has been a leader in hospital and medical services in the state for seven decades. "However," according to Pryor, "we recognize that continued leadership now requires a new role, that being the development of outward support to other communities and hospital facilities, which though worthy and needed, require the added structure afforded by our major facility in order to survive."

Through the affiliation, MBMC can provide WSBH with greater buying power and a wider range of services. It should also make the hospital in Morton

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Baptist Men's Rally is set for Aug. 20

The Mississippi Baptist Men's Rally will take place Aug. 20 at Parkway Baptist Church in Jackson.

The Brotherhood department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which sponsors the event, reports that tickets for the banquet which begins the rally are still available for this annual inspirational and fellowship event for all Baptist men. These tickets may be purchased from the Brotherhood department by writing Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phoning 968-3800. Tickets are \$5 per person.

The rally is divided into two parts, a banquet and a conference. The banquet begins at 5:30 p.m. at Parkway (which is located on West Capitol near the Jackson zoo) and the conference begins at 7. Attendance at the banquet is not required for attendance at the conference. There is no charge for the conference.

The banquet entertainers include Barry Landrum and the Hometown Reunion. Landrum is pastor of First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La. The Hometown Reunion is a barbershop quartet, based in Jackson.

Landrum grew up in Laurel and went to Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. Members of the Hometown Reunion are Wayne Derrick, Howard Flowers, Charles Stacy, and Bill Lumpkin.

The conference session's featured speaker will be Carl Bates, senior professor of pastoral ministries at Southern Seminary. He is a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and was pastor of First Church, Charlotte, N.C., before going to teach at the seminary.

John Cheyne of the Foreign Mission Board will also speak during the conference. He is the FMB's consultant for relief ministries. Cheyne will speak on Southern Baptists' response to world hunger.

Musicians for the conference will be R. L. and Beth Sigrest of Yazoo City. They have recorded four albums of sacred music.

Also on the conference program will be several Mississippi Baptists who will give testimonies concerning their involvement in volunteer missions.

Separation slips

PROVIDENCE, R. I. (EP)—Amid tributes to Roger Williams and the ideals of separation of church and state which he espoused, members of the First Baptist Church in America recently dedicated a newly restored church steeple here. There was, however, a certain mixture of irony attached to the proceedings. For while speakers lauded separation of church and state, there was also the acknowledgement that a substantial portion of the \$463,000 that went into renovating the 205-year-old structure had come from the government—\$100,000 in federal money channeled through the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission and \$70,000 in federal funds supplied by the city of Providence, according to a report from Religious News Service.



Interpreting Isaiah 40

Tim Nicholas Photo

These young people are presenting a dramatic interpretation of the musical theme from "Chariots of Fire" and Isaiah 40, during the Youth Choral and Instrumental Conference at

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. Johnny Hyde, drama specialist from Jackson, led the group. (More conference pictures on page 2).

More Spanish-speaking volunteers needed

Two from state teach MKs in Uruguay, Paraguay

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

"I wish we could have a Spanish-speaking Mississippi volunteer to come and teach a WMU leadership conference!" exclaimed one missionary in Uruguay.

"Ask, and you will receive," answered Janet Murray. "Perhaps there are more Spanish-speaking Baptists in Mississippi than we would guess."

Janet, who does not speak Spanish, was in Uruguay and Paraguay July 2-18 with Laura Compere, who does speak it. Both volunteered to conduct VBS-type activities for missionary kids while their parents were in mission meetings.

In Montevideo, Uruguay, the mission meeting was held at the Baptist seminary; the two women stayed in the seminary dorm. In Paraguay, the meeting was held at the camp near Asuncion, so they received lodging there.

Janet (Mrs. Leo) Murray is a member of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson. Laura Compere, who recently received a master's degree in Spanish from Mississippi State

University, is a member of Faith Baptist Church, Starkville. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Arthur Compere, Mississippians, are former missionaries to Nigeria.

"The first weekend would have made the whole trip worthwhile to me, even if we had done nothing else," said Janet. "We visited in seven missionary homes and in three Baptist churches. In the evening service (at the church near the seminary) we participated in the observance of the Lord's Supper."

Janet does not now teach children at Broadmoor, but teaches adults, and has been active in WMU and in teaching English to internationals. However, she said, "I taught children long ago, and I love them."

Love for children was one prerequisite for the volunteer task she was assigned. When another volunteer had to drop out because of family illness, Art Nelson, Mrs. Murray's fellow church member, suggested to Pat Jordan that she might be interested. (Pat works in the office of the coordinator of partnership missions.)

"Pat called and asked me three questions," Janet said. "I tell her it

was in this order: (1) Do you have \$2,000? (2) Do you have an active passport? (3) Do you love children?"

Since she could say yes to all three and was intensely interested in missions, she prayed about the challenge and talked to her husband about it. "He was really excited about the idea! He sent me, so financially he was a part of it."

She and Laura had 15 missionary children enrolled in Paraguay and 20 in Uruguay. She taught the younger ones and Laura the older. She taught units on "How Can I Please God?" and "I Can Do It Myself," and Laura

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Janet (Mrs. Leo) Murray of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, is encircled by the missionary kids she taught in Uruguay.

Foy Rogers looks back on department accomplishments

Foy Rogers retired last week after 22 years as director of the Cooperative Missions department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

He said on his last day, prior to a banquet given in his honor, that he felt he'd accomplished the goals he set for his department 22 years ago.

When Rogers came to Mississippi (after being away for a while) from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Bellevue, Tex., the 77 Mississippi Baptist associations only had 22 missions programs.

Rogers engineered what is known as the Foster Missionary Program and today all of the Mississippi associations have the services of a director of missions at least one day a month.

Five of these associations have a foster missionary, who is a person approved by the associational council, and who spends at least one day each month on site at the association, helping with missions and educational emphases. Now Ray Grissett has moved from the Cooperative Missions department to the Program Director's office to work exclusively with DOMs.

Rogers also hoped to build a strong language missions program. In 1960, the late Benjamin Burgos was working with the Spanish, there was work among Chinese in Cleveland and Greenville, and there was work among the Choctaws in seven counties.

Now, there is a director of language

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Church is good neighbor to Keesler Air Force Base

By Tim Nicholas

On the backside of Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, nestled against its back fence, is a church that loves it. In fact, 70 percent of the membership of Forrest Avenue Baptist Church is military.

The fact that there are only 50 members on roll at the church does not diminish the intensity of caring the church has for persons in the military service.

Most Baptist churches have some turnover of membership at some acceptable rate. But Forrest Avenue, according to Pastor Jim Haynes, loses 25-30 percent of its members every year.

It is in early spring that "daddy gets his marching orders," says Haynes. Then the wives and children leave when school is out. And through summer and into the fall the membership slowly builds back up.

Haynes says that in his 11 years as pastor there, the church "has died 10 times and been sick nigh unto death" many more.

The Vietnam years were worst, though. As a training base, Keesler

moved a lot of people through Biloxi and Forrest Avenue Baptist Church. A year ago, 200 people were taken from the church rolls because none of the present members knew where they were, and in many cases, no one knew who they were.

Only a year ago, when the church moved a bond issue for a church building project, it elected officers when it incorporated. Two of the four officers have already been transferred.

Three years ago, when Richard Burt joined, there were only 18 people enrolled in Sunday School. Now about 50 attend. Burt, a staff sergeant, is associate pastor and minister of music. He is also a Jackson native.

A friend, Sgt. Harvey Rice, who is a leadership school instructor at Keesler, as is Burt, said he and his wife tried a larger church when they came to the area.

Rice says they visited another church four Sundays. "The only person who said hello was the lady in the nursery who took our baby."

He says that was not the case at Forrest Avenue which advertises Fridays

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able to get more diesel soon. We are out and there have been problems getting more. That means no electricity at the hospital, home, church, anywhere. We have a small amount now which allows us to operate electricity some at night but I don't know how long this will last."

JIM TWILBECK (Clarke)
South Carolina

"Two Chinese men from a Red Chinese ship came and visited our Seaman's Center. As we were showing them our center we showed them all the different Bibles we have and the Chinese Bibles. They asked us if they could have one. They explained to us that they would have to sneak them back on board the ship and if they got caught they would automatically be sent back to China and punished for having it. This touched me to see these Chinese Seamen put their future on the line just to have God's Word, the Word we take for granted so often. These men didn't actually say they were Christians, but by their sincerity and their drive to bring these Bibles back on board ship with them I feel as though they are. They told us that they hope to share what they have with

their families and that is what I call BOLD MISSION THRUST."

JODI WILCOX (Jones)
Indiana

"Kathy, my partner, and I saw first hand what missions is all about. We were doing survey work and as we knocked on one house an older lady came to the door. She leaned each hand against the door facing and swayed back and forth. Her breathing was slow and heavy. We identified ourselves and stated our purpose. She started crying. She told us she was a widow and felt like she did not have a friend in the world. She said she had had two brain tumors and a third was coming back. Kathy asked her if she was a Christian and the woman said, she tried awful hard. We shared with her how Jesus could take care of all her pain and loneliness and had prayer with her. We saw a need and met that need to the best of our ability. It made tears come to my eyes to see the pain and loneliness in the woman's face. It was like God was saying, "See, this is why you are in Indiana this summer."

RONALD MEEKS (Blue Mountain) Maryland

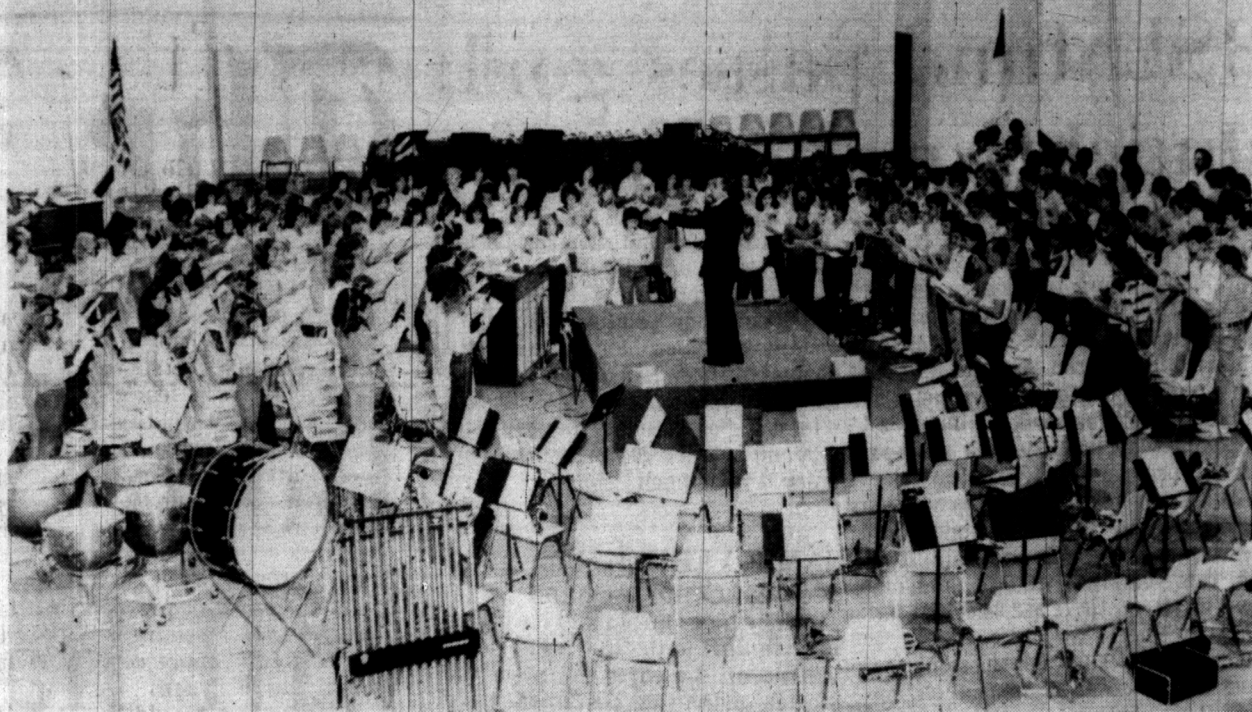
"Although we live in a world which

boasts of super power and advanced technology, no power can move us and no technology can transform us as can the sincere expression of love from one of God's little ones." After a busy week of VBS, a third young summer missionary returned to restore, as much as possible, the VBS classroom. Amidst the posters and the books and other assorted debris, he found a simple note. It did not bear the name of Hallmark—it did not have to. The torn and ragged scrap of red construction paper conveyed this simple message:

"Ronald, thanks for teaching Vacation Bible School. (signed) Natalie Fortner"

In a world such as ours we may still confidently affirm, "... the greatest of these is LOVE!"

(Nay Reed is secretary in the Department of Student Work.)



Vocal institute founder directs choir

The Youth Choral and Instrumental Conference at Gulfshore took all participants into a choir and presented a concert during the session. They were directed by Don Collins

of the University of Central Arkansas who is founder and director of the Cambiata Vocal Institute which works with youths whose voices are changing.

Church is good neighbor to Keesler Air Base

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in the base newspaper. His first visit, he says everyone in the service shook his hand with warm greetings.

"People coming into a new town with a new job, are looking for a friend," says Rice. "They turn in here (to Forrest Avenue church) and people are open and friendly."

Haynes says that few of the members grew up in a Southern Baptist church, so on the job training is necessary. Burt who had never taught before, was leading the young adults two months after he joined.

Haynes son, Jim, Junior, is pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ocean Springs. He led a study of the deacon family ministry two years ago, which the church is undertaking. And Burt taught to the whole church the "Survival Kit for New Christians."

"Small as we are, and active as we are," says Rice, "it is impossible to come in here and be a pew warmer."

Jessie Grayson, retired, and chairman of the deacons, said he learned a lot from the Survival Kit teaching, though he was not a new Christian. However, he said that three years ago he was an alcoholic whose doctor had just told him he'd never work again. Despondent, Grayson says "God came to me this way—he said 'I've got plenty for you to do.'"

Grayson phoned Haynes, "dried out" in two days, and on Mother's Day that year, he and his wife walked the aisle. Grayson is still staying busy at the church.

Outside the focus on military, is a special ministry to a group of senior citizens. Haynes is resident chaplain for Santa Maria del Mar, a Catholic-operated senior adult complex. The

church picks up about 10 of the women each week to attend worship services. And Haynes has been leading a Monday evening Bible class at the home for the past three and a half years attended by 25-35 of the residents. He preaches in Sunday afternoon worship services every first and fifth Sunday and arranges for ministers of other churches and denominations to preach other Sundays.

Four years ago, Haynes was awarded the honorary doctor of arts of humane letters by the Sacred Heart Order of Catholic nuns at St. Alphons Seminary in Reading, Pa., in recognition of his work in Biloxi.

Haynes is also auxiliary chaplain at Keesler, and as pastor he can visit on base regularly where civilian church members cannot go freely. He is a graduate of Arkansas State University and earned the master of theology degree from New Orleans Seminary. He was bus minister and associate pastor at Pass Road Church in Gulfport, 1971-72, and was pastor of Taylor Baptist Church near Oxford, 1969-71. For 10 years before that he was a lay minister in Arkansas.

Haynes says former members are continually showing up in services as they visit the Gulf Coast. Just last week Captain Pete Peterson, who had once been the church's minister of music, attended the Wednesday evening service. Visiting Keesler on business, Peterson said he was now involved in pioneer Southern Baptist work among the islands of Puget Sound.

"That's what our church does," says Grayson, "send people all over the world."

Two from state teach MKs

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taught Evelyn Vaughn's book, "Rules, Rules, Rules." In Uruguay, Mike Dubberly, a college age MK, assisted Laura and in Paraguay, David Cartwright, a young man from Nashville, whose church sent him as a short-term volunteer, helped.

"Some of the younger children have not been in America very much," Janet said, "and it is important to let them touch and feel and hear an American, for they belong to two countries, America as well as the country where they live. We tried to update them on American sports and games and music and books, etc., as well as teach them the Bible materials."

"I feel that the trip was most pleasant and worthwhile," she added, "and I would not hesitate to go back right now." She said that having someone to teach the children frees all the missionaries so that none has to miss the mission meeting which is vital to their work.

Thurmon Bryant and Ben Bedford from the Foreign Mission Board were speakers at the mission meetings. "They expressed appreciation for the Mississippi volunteers," Janet said.

"Luis Palau will be leading an evangelism crusade in Paraguay in

September, and the missionaries asked that Baptists be in prayer for this," said Janet. "Also they asked prayers for the work of the hospital in Asuncion. A meeting was to be held the first weekend in August to make long-range plans for it,—and I think we should pray for the missionaries' survival in that traffic!"

Laura decided to stay in South America for a month, and will return to Miss. Aug. 18. From Paraguay, she returned to Uruguay by bus (her return plane ticket is from Asuncion to the States). During the additional time, she planned to get a closer look at the work of the missionaries and to help out wherever she is needed.

With Laura staying, Janet was slightly nervous about returning alone on the plane. If there happened to be a lay-over in some city, how could she manage without speaking Spanish? While she was in line, though, at the airport in Asuncion, ready to return, she met an employee of the Baptist book store in Montevideo, who spoke Spanish, and English. She and her husband were enroute to the States—and would be on the same plane.

"The Lord takes care of even your fears," Janet said later, to a potential volunteer.



Left to right are Mississippi missionaries in Uruguay, with Janet Murray and Laura Compere, at Montevideo in early July: John and Kathy McNair; Janet Murray, Laura Compere, Paul and Betty Roaten; Susan and Jason Carlisle.

Deadline policy

The Baptist Record goes to press on Tuesday mornings for mailing on Wednesdays. This means that material for stories in the paper must reach the Baptist Record offices by noon on the previous Friday.

With most mail in Mississippi taking two days to travel, the stories need to be mailed on Wednesdays for possible inclusion in the following week's paper.

Dated material receives priority handling. A death over the weekend would be the type of exception the Baptist Record would consider handling on a Monday for that week's issue. Revivals starting that week are not. The Record will use revival notices mailed late as "in progress."

Photo policy

1. The Baptist Record will return only those pictures accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope.
2. The Baptist Record can use only good crisp photos in order to achieve reasonable reproduction. (Polaroid seldom will reproduce properly.)
3. We will run all pictures of G.A. coronation services (and R.A. recognitions) that measure up to the quality standard. We will have news items for those that do not send usable pictures.
4. For graduation stories, only those receiving doctorates will be pictured. Mississippi graduates of seminaries will be listed.
5. For musical performances at churches and associational programs, only Mississippi non-professional groups will be pictured, and then only if the program is not one for the group's own church. For promotion of statewide meetings the use of pictures of music groups will be decided by the Baptist Record staff.
6. The Baptist Record will run notices of service anniversaries relating to Baptist entities in Mississippi any time we receive them. We will use pictures only in multiples of five years.
7. We can use college-bestowed honors only when we are aware that the honoree is a Mississippi Baptist.
8. Because there are so many instances in which they would be applicable, we cannot use evangelists' pictures in revival meeting situations.

Foy Rogers looks back on department accomplishments

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mission work, Richard Alford, preceded by Rodney Webb. "And we brought in a minister to the deaf," said Rogers. First there was Clifford Bruffey, then Jerry St John. Now, Alford includes work with the deaf as part of his program.

In 1962, the department set up inservice guidance among the four Baptist colleges in the state. Therman Bryant did that work until his death and he was replaced by Hollis Bryant.

Bryant works with rural churches and recently the department added a bivocational pastor emphasis. Bryant also works in interfaith witness.

Rogers said that in one campaign, his department oversaw a survey of 85 percent of the state pertaining to

MBMC offers to manage West Scott

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ton more competitive in recruiting physicians to move into the area.

Similar affiliations have occurred elsewhere in the state. Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis is now managing a Booneville hospital, and there is a planned takeover of a Newton hospital by Rush Health Systems, Inc. in Meridian. The move to hospital affiliations is nationwide, particularly in the large, for-profit conglomerates. From 1975-80 multi-hospital systems increased by 50%.

According to Pryor, MBMC feels that its best interest is served if Mississippi hospital providers remain on a voluntary, not-for-profit basis. In order to help assure this philosophy, the decision was made by the MBMC Board to provide management affiliation to communities and hospitals in the state.

It will be MBMC's objective to not only support positively the preservation of the voluntary not-for-profit medical care system in Mississippi, but also to expand the Christian healing ministry to other communities which may be served by MBMC outreach.

The West Scott County Hospital is the first management affiliation undertaken by MBMC. It is anticipated, however, that if this venture goes well MBMC may take on the management of some additional units in the future. (Jean May directs public relations for MBMC.)

Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.—James M. Barrie

church extension work which is still a function of the department, of which John McBride is now director.

Rogers said that now he's retired, he hopes to be pastor of some country churches. He also will serve as a part time representative of the World Home Bible League.

In January, he's unofficially scheduled to teach a course on the rural church at New Orleans Seminary, where he earned his bachelor of divinity degree. Rogers also is a graduate of Mississippi College and

July gifts go over million

July gifts to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program in Mississippi totaled \$1,103,737, according to Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The Board receives funds from Mississippi Baptist churches and relays 34 percent of these funds to Southern Baptist causes outside the state. The rest funds missions and education enterprises in Mississippi.

The one million-plus dollars for July pushed the total income for 1982 to \$7,868,523, averaging more than a million dollars a month.

Budget for the first seven months of the year, on a pro rata basis, would be \$8,120,292. That places income for 1982 at \$251,769 below budget.

The total budget for 1982 is \$13,920,500. To make the budget, Mississippi Baptists would average giving \$1,160,041 per month. "Mississippi Baptists write the budget each year," said Kelly, "and Mississippi Baptists provide for it each year. 1982 should prove no different."

Help wanted

The equipping center at Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman needs volunteer carpenters and carpenter's helpers. The center is a part of a still-new ministry to prison staffers and families of inmates at Parchman. The building of the center, a half mile from the main gate, is still in early stages, the foundation already having been poured. Max Hodges, volunteer coordinator, said he could use 8-10 men each day, Monday through Saturday. Hodges may be reached at 887-2197 (home), and 246-8404 (work). This is a ministry of the Sunflower Baptist Association, the Home Mission Board, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

A band presented such selections as "Father, Lift Me Up," and "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" in the final concert. It was directed by Greg Berry of Plainview, Tex. The conference was led in Bible study by Terry Booth, pastor of Scenic Heights Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla. Total registration was 325 and the youths worked in three handbell groups, in addition to the other groups. Susan Clark of the Church Music department, was conference coordinator.

Committee now accepting nominations for boards

The Mississippi Baptist Committee on Nominations is receiving recommendations for membership on the boards of the several colleges, according to the chairman, Gordon H. Samsing, Pontotoc.

Recommendations for such memberships should be supported by detailed information as indicated on personal data forms which may be obtained from the Chairman of the Committee on Nominations.

All recommendations should be received by the Chairman of the Committee on Nominations not later than 60 days prior to the annual convention. The chairman this year is Gordon H. Samsing, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pontotoc.

Criteria should include the following factors:

- (1) All nominees for the position of trustee of a Mississippi Baptist College should be members in good standing of a Baptist Church cooperating with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.
- (2) All members of Boards of Trustees should be individuals who believe wholeheartedly in the program of Christian higher education as promoted by Mississippi Baptists, and should have demonstrated loyalty to, or support of, the college to be served.
- (3) Nominees should be college graduates or persons of demonstrated intellectual attainments, and should have gained recognition as leaders in their professions or occupation.
- (4) Final selection should be made so as to include no more than seven nor less than four pastors for each college.
- (5) Final selections should provide a broad geographical representation on the board of each college.
- (6) Final sections should provide a broad spectrum of professional and business capability.
- (7) Final selections should be made so as to maintain at all times a substantial number of graduates or former students of the college for which nominations are made.

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Sunday School plans fifth leader training conference

A fifth Sunday School leadership conference has been planned for Gulfshore Baptist Assembly on Oct. 4-6. This conference will be directed by the state Sunday School department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Bible study and general messages will be led by Brian Harbour, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla. The musicians will be Beth and R. L. Sigrest, Yazoo City. Age-group leadership conferences for preschool, children, youth and adult workers will be conducted with a



R. L. and Beth Sigrest

general officers conference for pastors, Sunday School directors, and other general officers. Five hours will be devoted to the leadership conferences and credit will be offered in the Church Study Course.

The fifth Sunday School leadership conference will begin Monday night at 5:30 p.m. with the evening meal and adjourn Wednesday with the noon meal.

No child care or provision for children (6-11), or youth (12-17) will be provided. The entire conference will be only for adult ages.

Reservations should be mailed to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571. Enclose a reservation deposit of \$15.00 for each person. This amount is applicable to the total cost of the conference. Rates and room information can be obtained by calling Gulfshore Assembly, 452-7261.

Program information can be secured by calling the Sunday School Department in Jackson, 968-3800 or writing them at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Personal growth aim of conference for staffers

Spiritual and interpersonal growth for all church staffers is the focus of four area meetings called "Keys to Effective Personal Growth."

These one day meetings will take place in four Mississippi cities in mid-September. Each will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 that afternoon. Each will have similar formats. The two



Gregory

Brister

sessions for north Mississippi will be Sept. 11 at First Baptist Church, West Point and Sept. 14 at First Baptist Church, Grenada. The sessions for the southern part of the state will be Sept. 16 at First Baptist Church, Columbia and Sept. 17 at McLaurin Heights Baptist Church, Pearl.

Session leader for the two sessions in the north will be Jack Gregory, pastor of West Heights Baptist Church, Pontotoc. Leader for the south will be J. W. Brister, director of missions for Hinds-Madison Baptist Association.

Leon Emery, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries department, which sponsors the meetings, will lead segments of each session. He will lead work groups and a session on "Growing in a Caring Relationship."

All the meetings will have sessions on "Factors that Affect Personal Growth," "A Positive Approach to Daily Living," and "Developing a Plan for Personal Growth."

Assn. officers will train

On August 28 three simultaneous Associational Officers' Training Conferences will take place.

These meetings, designed for leaders of associational programs, will be at the First Baptist Churches of Oxford, Carthage, and Columbia. Each will begin at 9 a.m., concluding at 12:30 p.m. with a complimentary lunch to follow.

There will be conferences for all age groups of Sunday School, Church Training, and for Brotherhood, Woman's Missionary Union, Church Music associational leaders, plus coordinators of family ministries, church administration, and chairmen of Christian Action Committees, Stewardship, and evangelism, and missions committee chairmen. Sessions will also be held for directors of missions, moderators, and associational clerks.

Conveners will be Paul Harrell, state Brotherhood director, at Oxford; Guy Henderson, state evangelism director, at Carthage; and Bryant Cummings, state Sunday School director at Columbia.

These training sessions are sponsored by Chester Vaughn, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's program director.

Bivocational pastors set for confabs

Five regional conferences for bivocational pastors are set for August, September, and early October.

The five conferences which are designed for pastors who hold additional secular jobs and for all directors of missions, will take place at Louisville, Shubuta, Durant, Bude, Davis Lake and Okolona.

The Winston Association meeting will be held on Friday August 6th at Bethel Baptist Church and on Saturday the 7th at Gum Branch Baptist Church.

The Clarke Association meeting will be held on Friday September 3 at Oak Grove Baptist Church and on Saturday at Pine Hill Baptist Church.

The First Baptist Church of Durant will be the meeting place for the Holmes Leflore Associations meeting held on September 10-11.

The Franklin Association meeting will be held at Bude Baptist Church on September 24-25.

The Chickasaw Association meeting will be held at Shiloh Baptist Church on Friday and Carnation Baptist Church on Saturday, October 8-9.

Each of the Friday sessions will begin at 6 p.m. with a complimentary dinner and the Saturday sessions will begin at 7:30 with breakfast.

Hollis Bryant is coordinator of the meetings and consultant for the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

He requested that those bivocational pastors and directors of missions who plan to attend, contact one of the following persons who are handling local arrangements for dinner reservations. A week's notice would be appreciated.

Contact persons for dinner reservations are Jerry Steyens for Winston Association (773-3366), Grady Crowell, Clarke Association, (776-6748), M. C. Johnson for Holmes-Leflore Associations (453-9408), Glen Williams for Franklin Association, (684-9920), Bobby Long (568-7189) and Dwight Brown (447-2314) for the Chickasaw Association.

On August 2, the Lamar Association Pastors' Conference will be dealing with the subject "Bivocational pastors." This meeting will be held at Calvary Baptist Church at 7 p.m. with speaker Hollis Bryant. All bivocational pastors from surrounding associations are invited to attend.

"He that has little and wants less is richer than he that has a lot and wants more."

Family life coordinators will have training chances

Thirty-five associations in the state have designated someone as the Associational Family Life Coordinator according to J. Clark Hensley, consultant in family ministry with the Church Training Department. Others are in the process and announcement of the total group will be made soon.

There were 256 persons who attended Family Enrichment Week at Gulfshore. Of these, 15 were associational coordinators who attended a special training session and will offer training of Church Family Committees in their associations soon. Those in attendance were: Danny Watkins, Copiah; David MacIsaac, Greene;

Durwood Broughton, Gulf Coast; Ken Bradley, Lafayette-Marshall; Drew Blanton, Lawrence; Ed Hamilton, Leake; David Perry, Lincoln; Ken Jordan, Marion; George Lee, Marion; Gordon Sansing, Pontotoc; Ray Spears, Quitman, Mrs. Frank Morgan, Scott; Harvey Sewell, Union Co.; Jerry Stevens, Winston; and James Everett, Yazoo.

Additional training opportunities for coordinators will be given at Oxford, Carthage, and Columbia, Aug. 28, 9-12:30 p.m. as a part of the associational officers training. The Strengthening Family Emphasis is a part of the Bold Mission Thrust concern for 1982-85.



Bolivar men assist Kansas church

Eight men from five churches in Bolivar Baptist Association spent July 5-9, assisting Emmanuel Baptist Church, Topeka, Kan., with construction of an auditorium and education building. The team gave 344 work hours to put into place most of the outside sheathing and a considerable amount of the interior framework for classrooms, bathrooms, vestibule, and dressing rooms for the baptistry. Participants were, bottom row: Robert Haney, Interstate; D. A. "Doc" Brown, Skene; Kyle Redden, Skene; top row, Dennis Dunn, Boyle; Odie Henderson, director of missions, Bolivar Association and member of Merigold Church; Billy Birchfield, Interstate; R. D. "Bobby" Elmore, Skene; and Lewis Sellers, Shaw. Brown and Haney served as supervisors. Henderson, with the missions committee of the association, coordinated the project with Emmanuel church and the Home Mission Board, SBC.

Frank Voight dies in Virginia

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Frank G. Voight, director of the division of church programs for the Virginia Baptist General Board, died July 22 while on vacation at Myrtle Beach, S. C. He was 59.

Voight came to Virginia Baptist General Board as secretary of the Sunday School department in 1954.

Born in Paducah, Ky., he graduated cum laude from Mississippi College and received his Ph.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, two daughters, Marianne and Elaine, and two grandchildren.

It isn't necessary to blow out the other fellow's light in order to let your own shine.—Business Briefs.

Dad came home from work just before supper and his five-year-old daughter met him on the sidewalk. She was not smiling so he asked why. "Is something wrong, honey?" he asked. "Yes, all day long I've been having trouble with your wife."

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First Baptist Church—Columbus, MS

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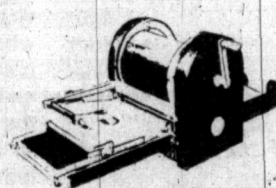
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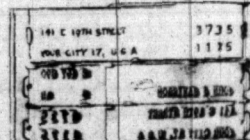
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Editorials . . .

The friendly Foy Rogers

Foy Rogers, the director of the Department of Cooperative Missions, retired July 31. During receptions, programs, and dinners given to honor him, a number of attributes continued to surface. A particular one was that he was always looking for an opportunity to witness as he moved about the state and did so without hesitation.

One was that he is kind, and an additional attribute was that he is friendly.

I had my own taste of his friendliness and kindness as I moved here from Texas.

Foy has several acres where he lives south of Brandon. Before I left Texas to go to California as state paper editor I had bought 20 acres south of Dallas on a Texas veteran's program of low down payment and low interest rate. I had planned to move there, but circumstances intervened. In California I

found a nice little home on three acres. The house had a fantastic kitchen that my wife loved.

When I came to Mississippi I had hoped to find such a spot again. Foy became a self-appointed agent to help me find it, and he spent countless hours in the process. We didn't find it, but it was not because Foy didn't try hard. He became acquainted with everything that was for sale in his part of

the country and how to get there. I couldn't get my Texas acreage sold in time, so there was nothing I could afford. But I surely appreciated Foy's efforts at helping the relative stranger who had just come to town.

When the banquet speakers and others attested to his kindness and friendliness, I could readily agree. I had been the recipient of both.—DTM

First, Jackson, honors its own

First Baptist Church, Jackson, honored itself a few weeks ago when it honored two of its members.

First there was a birthday party for Chester Swor, the 75-year-old nationwide traveler who just keeps going, talking to youth groups and other assemblies all over the nation.

Then there was W. Douglas Hudgins Day at the church to honor the former pastor who left that pastorate to become executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

I had been in the presence of both men in a significant way shortly before the two occasions mentioned and was touched in both instances. Dr. Swor

preached at my church, Pinelake in Rankin County, on a Sunday morning, and I remembered the first time I had heard him speak—40 years ago. I was a freshman at Baylor University and was accustomed to taking a needed nap during the compulsory chapel periods. Invariably I had been up late the night before studying, for I had not learned the art of gaining the needed information that early in my college career. As I looked down from my balcony seat early one week, I saw a small man with a limp approach the pulpit and figured I could make good use of my time by catching up on my sleep. I stayed awake long enough, however, to understand that the best thing one can do when Chester Swor is speaking

is to listen; and I did, intently, for the remainder of the week. It was an experience I never forgot, and I have enjoyed greatly since that day the opportunity of hearing him speak whenever it has presented itself.

Then the week before the Hudgins Day at First Baptist Church I attended the funeral of the father of John Lee Taylor, a former Mississippian who is now pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn. Dr. Hudgins read the scripture for the funeral, held at First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs; and he read the Twenty-third Psalm. I had never heard it recited with such expression before. It was truly inspiring.

Having grown up in Texas, I was

familiar with the name of W. Douglas Hudgins from his days in the pastorate there. My first awareness of him personally, however, was when he presided over a session of the Southern Baptist Convention at Houston, Texas, in 1958 as first vice-president. I was very much taken by his ability and statesmanship. Then I came to Mississippi and had opportunity to hear him speak. I have been a fan of his since that episode in Houston and have always enjoyed his pulpit presentations.

It was a delight to be a part of the crowd at W. Douglas Hudgins Day at First Baptist Church, Jackson.

My congratulations to that church for the folks it has chosen to honor.—DTM

Guest Opinion . . .

It's time for laymen to speak up!

A. L. (Andy) Rainey

I've been reflecting on our Southern Baptist Convention. I, like most laymen have been content, in the past to let the pastors and the other professionals in our churches and associations and state and Southern Baptist conventions run things as they saw fit. I felt that they knew a whole lot more about what needed to be done than I did.

Rumblings had reached my ears that there was some discord among some of our leaders regarding some theological questions—some differences in biblical interpretation. I didn't let it particularly worry me because I knew devout men, through the ages, had differed in biblical interpretation.

Much to my chagrin, however, I found at the convention in New Orleans that the differences in our convention are not as much theological as they are political. Our leaders, the Establishment, have always elected the officers of the convention, made the appointments to committees and boards and controlled the order of business, the speakers, etc., of the convention; and so they, naturally, chose those whom they knew or whom they felt confident would not "rock the boat."

A politically motivated group of pastors, evangelists, and laymen, primarily in and around Texas, I believe, have evidently decided that they want to take over control of the convention. They want to elect their people to offices, appoint their people to committees and boards. They want to control the order of business of the convention and want their people to be the speakers.

Being very politically adroit, they knew they could not make a frontal attack against the Establishment, so

they searched for a more subtle method of attack. What could be more effective than to attack on the theological grounds? What could make a Southern Baptist's blood boil more than to accuse our leaders of questioning the authenticity of the Bible?

So, they launch their attack on the basis of the inerrancy of the scriptures, and they carefully plan their campaign so that anyone who questions their position will be classed as a heretic.

Now, I do not claim to be a Bible scholar, and I accept without question that God's Holy Word is without error. He could not be God if this were not so. However, I seem to be out of step with some of my brethren as to what God's Holy Word is. I feel that it is the Message that God delivers to us by whatever method He uses—prophecy, revelation, inspiration, the written Word, preaching, teaching are all ways of receiving God's Holy Word. I also recognize that since His Word comes through fallible human mediums of interpretation or translation that it comes to us in less than perfect form.

If some learned biblical scholar can show me a perfect translation of a non-existent, perfect, original manuscript and somehow prove to me its perfection, I would be most grateful. This is, obviously, an impossibility.

So, I have always just gone along in my dumb, ignorant way, believing that God's Holy Word is infallible and inerrant but that human scribes, prophets, evangelists, preachers, teachers, etc., have read and translated His Message differently and that my only recourse is to ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten me to the extent that my limited human intelligence is able to contain. I believe His grace will cover my shortcomings,

and he will accept my desire to serve Him to the extent I am willing to give it to Him.

Until the New Orleans Convention I have let it go at that, saying, "You preachers go ahead and fight it out. I am not involved in your scrap." But, laymen, let me tell you that we can't continue to do that. This is not a theological argument between preachers. This is a political fight for control of our convention; and I now say, "A plague on both your houses."

We laymen need to have some serious talks with our pastors if they are involved in this scrap. Of course, all segments of our convention ought to have a voice in what goes on in our convention. The "Establishment" has been wrong in not accepting the "Fundamentalists" into places of leadership and they are now taking them over the objections of the "Establishment." But this should not give the "Fundamentalists" the right to refuse recognition to the "Establishment." Christ ruled out "an eye for an eye" 2,000 years ago.

Whether God created the universe in six days by our current time reckoning, or six million years, bothers me not one bit. I know that God created it; and how, when, or how long it took are matters that Southern Baptists will not agree on. Let's accept that fact.

Some Southern Baptists argue that it is contrary to God's nature for Him to command Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice and that this story is an allegory to teach us that God has the right to our most beloved possession. Others take the story literally, saying that God did not intend to let Abraham kill Isaac, but he wanted to test him. You see, the message from God is the same—all

things are His and He has the right to them and we should be willing to give them to Him. Why should Southern Baptists fight over this?

When our leaders fight over questions like this they are guilty of greater sin than they are accusing their opponents of for not accepting their interpretations of scripture.

So, since it seems that our pastors, evangelists, seminary professors, and our denominational leaders are going to end up destroying our convention and, of course, themselves also; it's time for us laymen to take a hand.

I suggest, again, that you have a talk with your pastor; and, if it is at all possible, I further suggest that some lay people from your church make plans to attend the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, next June. Laymen need to be there.

The Southern Baptist Convention is God's people working together to teach God's infallible, inerrant Word and to reach a lost world for Christ. Let's not let a bunch of power-hungry theologians defeat God's purpose for our convention!

Let's make some plans for charter buses, charter planes, and car pools to go to Pittsburgh. Talk to other churches in your area and work together on this. Another year may be too late!

If you agree, I would appreciate hearing from you in regard to your transportation arrangements. Maybe we can help you fill a bus or plane.

A. L. (Andy) Rainey
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World Cup witness in Spain successful

MADRID, Spain (BP)—Two hundred people made decisions for Christ and more than 200 others signed up for a Bible correspondence course after a six-week partnership evangelism project in Spain which coincided with the World Cup soccer finals.

Fifty-two young people from eight countries, including 25 from Oklahoma, participated. Oklahoma and the Spanish Baptist Union have a partnership relationship continuing into 1983. Other team members were from Yugoslavia, Spain, Mexico, Poland, Panama, Brazil, plus missionary kids from Austria and Ecuador.

They spent two weeks in five Spanish cities and then two weeks working in six churches in Madrid, in addition to orientation periods.

Adult team leaders included project coordinator Bill Wagner, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board evangelism consultant for Europe and the Middle East; missionary Reggie Quimby of Jativa, Spain; and John Tresch, dean of the School of Christian Service at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

Team members used a variety of efforts including tract distribution, open air services in parks, cafe (coffee) bars set up in churches, skits, mime, music programs, sports and puppetry. Witnessing centered on tracts and marked New Testaments, with young people from local churches or team translators assisting.

After a week of orientation in Madrid the teams were assigned to work out of churches in the cities in which World Cup games were being played. The Baptists distributed tracts and invitations to coffee bars around the stadiums before and after games. In Bilbao, where the English soccer team was playing, pastor Julio Diaz had the words "Baptist Church" painted on the facade of the church building to identify it for English-speaking visitors.

The effects of the campaign will be seen in the lives of teams members, local church youth groups and their churches in addition to the lives of those reached with the gospel, according to Wagner.

"Sometimes people are more willing to listen than Christians are to share. They are more willing to receive than we are to tell them about Christ," says Jose Francisco Fernandez Galan, a deacon of the church in La Coruna.

Letters to the Editor

The First Amendment and religion

Editor:

'President Reagan's prayer amendment is calculated to partially restore our laws to the historic Baptist position. When the Baptist idea of religious freedom was incorporated into the United States Constitution in the form of the First Amendment, the entire Bill of Rights restricted the authority of the Federal government over the states and the local institutions, such as schools. The Fourteenth Amendment, passed 79 years later, (for which Southern Baptists can hardly claim credit) gave the Federal government the power to overrule local and state "history" (tradition) in

this and other areas.

It's only been in the last 42 years that the Court has incorporated the religious aspect of the First Amendment through the interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment, and applied it to the states. There may be scriptural and political justifications for this, but Baptists cannot claim their history as one of them.

One of the speakers at a recent Christian Life Commission seminar in Jackson, Mississippi, admitted that historically the Anabaptists of Europe and the English Baptists were almost diametrically opposed on many issues and in their world/life views; and in defining the history of Baptists, it is a matter of picking and choosing from one "history" or the other.

Carl D. Ford
Laurel

Senior adults to meet in Memphis

More than 200 persons have already registered from Mississippi to attend the Mid-South Senior Adult Convention to be held at Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Sept. 6-8.

These registrants come from seven churches along with several individual registrations. Eight other churches have indicated their intention to send groups but have not made it official by paying the requested registration fee.

This first of its kind convention is a joint endeavor of six states: Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Missouri.

Featured speaker for the convention is Bob Norman, pastor of Northway Baptist Church, Dallas, TX. This former Tennessee pastor is a favorite with Mississippi senior adults who have heard him at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly where he is scheduled to speak again next year.

Other speakers include Adrian Rogers, host pastor; and Horace L. Kerr, Supervisor of the Senior Adult Section

of the Family Ministry Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Tommy Lane, minister of music at the host church, will be in charge of convention music which will feature the presentation of the senior adult musical, "Kingdom Within." There will be Bible study conferences one morning and senior adult needs conferences the other. Earl and Marjorie Rowden Kelly will be two of the Bible study leaders. The afternoon is free for sightseeing in the Memphis area.

Leadership conferences graded on the basis of experience of participants will be led by Kerr and his associate, Gary Hawk.

Program planners state that a registration fee of \$7 per person is needed to pay for the cost of the convention. Registration fees should be mailed to Senior Adult Consultant (Kermit King), Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205. Motel reservations must be made individually or by church leaders. Special rates are available.

Haywood N. Stubble

DURING THE WEEK OF VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY RULES WILL PREVAIL: (1) HOT DOGS SHALL BE CONSIDERED A DELICACY; (2) ANY BEDS MADE SHALL BE CONSIDERED AN ACCIDENT; AND (3) BED-TIME WILL BE 7 P.M.



Gerald Harris in top five for '83 room reservations

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—John E. Saunders, Kansas City, Mo., will get first preference for block room reservations for the 1983 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh.

Saunders' name was the first one drawn July 19, as the order of priority in assigning blocks of rooms for the convention was established.

Saunders is director of missions of Clay-Plate Baptist Association, Kansas City.

Tim Hedquist, convention manager for the SBC Executive Committee, said the system was established to give everyone an equal opportunity to reserve blocks of rooms.

The drawing establishes an order of priority, necessary since 191 requests were made for the 1983 annual meet-

ing. Of those, only 35 or 40 will be filled, Hedquist said. Convention guidelines allow only 40 percent of the available hotel rooms to be assigned through the block reservation system. Each block is limited to 50 rooms, he said.

Others among the top five drawn July 19 are: Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial Heights Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss.; Edmund E. Ellis, pastor of Courtland Baptist Church of Courtland, Va.; Sherrill Stevens, pastor of Montrose Baptist Church of Richmond, Va.; and Ron Cherry, pastor of Park Tower Baptist Church of Plano, Texas.

True godliness does not turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it, and excites their endeavors to mend it.—William Penn

Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Everybody calls her Aunt Mary

"I wish you could meet my neighbor, Aunt Mary," Margaret Ann Fortenberry, StarTeam member, from Jones County, told me at the WMU convention. Now that I've met her, I wish everyone else could, too.

Take a right

turn (if you're coming from Jackson) at Pine Grove Baptist Church and drive a mile or two on a quiet country road to the house shaded by great magnolia and pecan trees that Aunt Mary planted long ago.

Dainty, graceful, utterly feminine. Those words describe her. Tiny: 5'2" tall, 102 lb. Long hair, still black at 91, swirled up in a simple twist. She was wearing a pink silk dress with white lace collar above a delicate pearl and silver pendant. One of the biggest changes she's seen in her lifetime, she said, is "the way people dress!—I've never worn pants."

Mary Poole (Stockman) was born in Greensboro, Ala., one of 11 children—three boys and eight girls. "I was in the middle," she said. Soon they moved to Lauderdale County, Miss. She was baptized at Harmony Baptist Church.

"Daddy bought us a pump organ, and taught us to sing. We didn't have to wait for company to have a party! My red-headed mother lived to be 102. I remember her singing 'Amazing Grace' the day before she died." (Only Mary and two sisters, Bonita Martin and Sally Martin—whose husbands are brothers—are still living.)

In the 1920's and '30's her sister Ida Boggan was directing a Good Will Center in east Meridian sponsored by WMUs of the city. Since Ida knew how much Mary loved children, she asked her to take charge of the nursery. "The Center was supposed to be for orphans," Mary recalls. "One year I had 40 children, but only three whose mothers were dead. Parents of the others were separated. When fathers stopped by, I was not supposed to let the kids leave with them. So the men came inside the high fence at the playground. While they visited their children, I stood near the latched gate to see that no one left."

Besides the play time with the young children, she told Bible stories and taught songs. To this day many of those children—and young people with whom she counseled at the Center—former fellow members at Eighth Avenue Baptist Church, Meridian, still call her Aunt Mary.

In the meantime, her sister Emma had married Frank Stockman and had three children, Katherine, Mabel, and Mervin. After Emma's early death, Mary married Frank and reared the children as her own. They and their 7 children and 8 grandchildren (5 with red hair) call her Aunt Mary (and revel in her homemade ice cream.)

Upon her marriage, around 1935, she moved to the house near Ellisville where she still lives. Following her husband's death in 1971, she lived alone 10 years. "I was not afraid," she said. "I just trusted God to care of me." Last spring Katherine (Chatham), now a widow and retired school teacher, moved from Ocean Springs to live with her, so I had the joy of meeting her when I went to visit.

At 13 Mary started teaching Sunday School. At 16 she joined WMU. Later, as a member of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Jones County, she taught preschoolers in Sunday School many years and teens in Church Training, plus being a GA leader and "president and most other officers" in WMU. "I remember when our Baptist Women's organization was down to two." Now they have 58.

Once when she heard a pastor say that WMU meetings are "just a gossip," she shot back, "You go to one of the meetings and see!" And she told me, "You see a church that doesn't have WMU—they don't have much congregation—and the preacher won't have much help. The young people won't be trained for the future either." Her favorite place to go is Camp Garaywa, for she likes "the missionary speakers and the fellowship."

Some of her favorite things: fishing—"we have two ponds"; flowers and vegetable gardens—"I like to see things grow"; music—"I know lots of gospel songs by heart"; reading—"I can't see well enough to read now, but I listen to talking books"; Psalm 23.

If you happen to visit Pine Grove and see a petite woman singing away without a hymnbook (she can't see the words, and she knows them anyhow), I expect that will be Aunt Mary.

The Baptist Record

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Jackson, Miss. 39205

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The Baptist Building

Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205

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Revival Dates

First, Escatawpa: Aug. 8-13; nightly at 7:30; Bennie Jackson, evangelist; Don Cawthon, music director; Ray Campbell, pastor.

Enon (Walthall): Aug. 8-13; Elvin Fairchild, evangelist; Molly Fairchild, ventriloquist; Ronnie Campbell, music leader; W. P. Blair, pastor; Sunday 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

County Line (Rankin): Aug. 8-13; J. Roy McComb, pastor, First, Columbia, evangelist; Rell Webber, music evangelist; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and dinner at the church; Mon.-Fri. 7:30 p.m. T. W. Henderson, pastor.

Sand Hill (Jones): Aug. 8-13; B. Aaron Foy, evangelist; Tim Sanderson, music director; J. M. Foy, interim pastor; dinner on grounds Aug. 8; services at 7:30 p.m.

County Line, (Cophah): Aug. 2-8; at 7:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat.; 11 a.m. Sunday; D. W. Green of Edwards, evangelist; music led by Denise Windham, Mission Hill Church.

Hebron (Yazoo): Aug. 8-13; Mon.-Fri. at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, homecoming day with dinner on the grounds and services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jack Stanley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Stilwell, Okla., evangelist; Brown Sullivan, song leader; Bill Hutto, pastor.

Chunky Church: Aug. 8-13; at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Gordon Sansing, pastor, First, Collinsville, evangelist; Jerry Peagler, minister of music; Hickory, music director; Curtis L. Guess, pastor.

Gooden Lake, Humphreys County: Aug. 8-13; Sunday at 11 and 6; weekdays at 7:30 p.m.; evangelist, Hughie Denton, pastor of FBC, Flomaton, Ala.; C. J. Townsend, pastor. Townsend has been a patient at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center for the past month. He hopes to be released prior to the revival.

Ebenezer, Senatobia: Aug. 8-13; Ralph Allmon, pastor of Midway Church, Horseshoe Bend, Ark., speaker; Archie Goodwin, minister of music at Ebenezer, leading the music; Helen White and Alicia Castillo, accompanists; 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Claude Lazenby, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Tate): Aug. 8-12; Adolph Phares, pastor, First Baptist Church, Chipley, Fla., evangelist; Allen Bowling, Memphis, in charge of music; services at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Austin Moore, Jr., pastor.

Central Church, Lincoln: Aug. 8-13; Stanley Barnett, pastor of First Church, Pearl, evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music evangelist; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Paul Wilson, pastor.

West Poplarville Church, Poplarville: August 11-15; old-fashioned homecoming on Sunday, with dinner on the ground; Jamie Tynes, pastor, First Baptist Church, Heidelberg, guest minister; George True, in charge of music; at 7:30 p.m. each night and 11 a.m. Sunday; Jimmy Harris, pastor.

Wellman Church (Lincoln): Aug. 2-6; David Bayer, Hollowrock, Tenn., evangelist; song leader, Simeon Nix from Mt. Zion Church; instrumentalist, Victor Newell, Pleasant Grove Church; (homecoming was Aug. 1).

Grace Church, Laurel: Aug. 1-6; R. J. (Bob) Sanderson, Evergreen Church (Wayne), evangelist; at 7 p.m.

Kirkville (Itawamba): Aug. 8-13; nights only; Sunday night at 6:30; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30; Ed Smith, Carthage, evangelist; Hulon Chaney, pastor.

Ora Church (Covington): Aug. 8-13; Joe Royalty, evangelist; Louis Nicolosi, music director; Jerry Slonaker, pastor; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; week nights at 7:30.

West Corinth Church: Aug. 8-13; Sunday at 7 p.m.; other evenings at 7:30; George Johnson, pastor, First Baptist Church, Bolivar, Tenn., evangelist; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

Lone Oak (Alcorn): Aug. 8-15; at 10:30 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.; Bradford England, Sparta, Tenn., evangelist; Frank Whitman, pastor.

Immanuel, Jackson: Aug. 8-12; Carl Savell, pastor, Woodville Heights, Jackson, evangelist; Darrell Shirley, minister of music, Immanuel, music director; Frank Nixon, pastor, Sunday services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday services at 7:30 p.m.

Revival Results

First, Kosciusko: July 18-23; Rick Ingle, preaching; Jerry Swimmer, leading the singing; 52 professions of faith; 5 by letter; one by statement; two for full-time Christian service; several additions by baptism and letter on the following Sunday, the 25th; L. Edward Gandy, pastor.

First, State Line: Aug. 8-13; at 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Harold Bryson, evangelist; Roy Garrison, pastor; Mrs. Annie Bumpus, music director.

Concord (Choctaw): Aug. 9-13; E. B. Shivers, evangelist; Lavern Pickett, in charge of music; E. M. Pogue, pastor; services at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Center Grove VBS introduces new feature

Center Grove Baptist Church, Meridian, introduced a new feature in VBS this year.

Instead of having the traditional character story, the associate pastor and V.B.S. director, Leon Williams, used this time for teaching about Jesus. Monday he talked about why Jesus was born; Tuesday, why did he live; Wednesday, why did he die; Thursday, why did he rise from the grave; and Friday, a review, why Jesus?

During the week three young people accepted Jesus; the following Sunday two more were saved. These converts were given copies of Good News New Testaments and Survival Kits for Children.

A night class was held for ages 15 and older. This was the church's first time to have a night class. They had 28 enrolled with 13 teachers and workers, reports G. Gerald Roberson, deacon.

Homecomings

Concord (Choctaw): homecoming; 145th birthday of church; Aug. 8; Tom Lester (Eb of "Green Acres" TV show), speaking at 11 a.m.; lunch at the church at noon; singing at 2, featuring the Harmony Boys and Carol from Louisville.

Oakland Grove, Laurel: Aug. 8; Dave Townsend, speaking at 11; dinner in Fellowship Hall; special program at 1:15; Paul Byrd, Mary Stroud, and Joe Bohannon, members, sharing thoughts on theme, "Reflecting, Re-counting and Reuniting"; Cedar Grove Singers from Newton, singing.

Oak Grove, Hernando: homecoming; Aug. 1, beginning at 11 a.m.; revival Aug. 15-20; Charlie Grigsby, evangelist; Eddie Prince, pastor. The church is celebrating its 130th anniversary this year.

Thursday, August 5, 1982



Woodville Heights at fair

The Celebration (youth) Choir of Woodville Heights Baptist Church, Jackson, will be performing at the Baptist Pavilion of the World's Fair in Knoxville, Aug. 7 at 11:45 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. These will be two 20 minute performances on the pavilion stage.

The choir will leave Jackson Aug. 5 and return Aug. 10. Raymond Ball is minister of music and director of the choir. Kaye Stringer is accompanist. Carl Savell is pastor.

Staff Changes

David W. Allen has accepted the pastorate of Moss Hill Baptist Mission, New Albany. He received the master of divinity degree in 1981 from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Pearlington Church, Gulf Coast, has Charles and Judy Boyd serving as a summer youth and children's director team.

Jackson Avenue Baptist Church, Jackson County, has called Jimmy Miller as minister of music.

Belle Fountain Baptist Church, Jackson County, has called Marcus Marler as minister of music and youth. He is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

Benny Sill has accepted the position as minister of music/youth at Woodville Church. He is a graduate of William Carey College and goes to Woodville from the Fernwood Baptist Church at Fernwood, Miss.

Sill also works for the State Department of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation Division, as counselor for Pike County. He and his family will continue to live in Pike County and commute to Woodville on Wednesdays and weekends.

New Hope Church, Oktibbeha County, has called Mickey Ferguson as pastor. He formerly served in the association as pastor at Adaton.

G. Morris Barnett is new pastor at Ruth Church.

First Baptist Church, Charleston, has called Wayne Carter as minister of music, education, and youth. Carter, served at First, Charleston in the early 1970's as minister of music and youth. He is a graduate of Henderson State University in Arkansas and has nearly completed master's degrees in both church music and religious education at New Orleans Seminary. He has served in Arkansas, Louisiana, Ohio, and Alabama churches, as well as in Mississippi.

Hardy Baptist Church, Grenada County, has called Gary Lee Black as pastor. Black, native of Memphis, goes to Hardy from Neshoba Baptist Church, Neshoba.

Owen Smith has resigned the pastorate of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Gulfport, due to continued health problems. The church began the year with 56 members and has had 20 professions of faith since Oct. 1.

Trinity Baptist Church, Laurel, has called Alben Gaston, as pastor. Gaston goes from Calvary Church, Waynesboro. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Old Hebron Baptist Church, Jeff Davis County, has called Mark Rathel as pastor. He formerly served as pastor of Berwick Baptist Church, Liberty. He is a graduate of William Carey and New Orleans Seminary.

The Lord gets his best soldiers out of the highlands of affliction.—Charles H. Spurgeon

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Senatobia, has called Archie Goodwin of Olive Branch as minister of music and youth. He came from Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch.

John Wilson, pastor, Waveland Baptist Church, Gulf Coast, has resigned.

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THE VILLAGE VIEW

FROM
Baptist Children's Village
P. O. Box 11308 Jackson, MS 39213

The first day of school

Dear Friend:

It is not easy being the new kid in town, especially on the first day of school. Worrisome questions fill your mind. Will you be able to find your classroom? Will your classmates be friendly? Will the teacher ask you to stand up and introduce yourself? Will the other kids laugh at you if you say something dumb or ask a foolish question? Many of us will remember these childhood fears—and the sweaty hands, queasy stomachs, and dry throats that go with them. For many of our children here at The Baptist Children's Village, the experience can be even more trying.

You can understand why we want them to look their best, and to have all the supplies that they need on that first day of school. New shoes, coats, jeans, dresses, shirts, and slacks, all must be bought for our big family. There are notebooks, glue, and crayons that are all necessary to equip our boys and girls for the new school year.

We turn to you, as our children turn to us, to ask for your help. Your aid now will help our children attend school with confidence and help to assure that they will benefit fully from the educational opportunities that are

available to them. The "Back to School" budget for 1982 will be exceedingly difficult to meet! We need your help!

Gifts of Honor and Memory June 26 - July 25, 1982

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a listing of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Mrs. T. J. Adams
Mrs. Hazel Flora
Bob Ainsworth
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Fore
Mr. G. A. Alexander
Bill & Maria Murray
Clarence Anderson
Elizabeth Hale Group, Jackson
Mrs. Mildred L. Ashley
Bob & Shirley Meteer
Mrs. Ben Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis E. Miller
Mrs. Shelton Beckett
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Kenneth
Mrs. Roscoe Berry
Dr. & Mrs. John K. Henry
Miss Ada Bethea
Mrs. Julia W. Hand
Gilda & Ada Bethea
Sue Reynolds
Claudine Davis
Mrs. R. V. Black
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Holloway
Miss Martha Sheffield
Mrs. Nola Boover
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Pope
Mrs. Joffe Phillips
Mrs. Joe Bourne
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Little
Mrs. Tanner Bourne
Mr. & Mrs. B. W. Bell
Crystal Brooke
Edith M. Aldridge
Mrs. Charlotte Brown
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. DeFord
Mr. Grady Brown
Mrs. J. M. Godwin
Rev. Willis Brown
Mrs. Martha R. Black
Don Cameron
Mr. William R. Ford
Charles Burnett Campbell
Don A. Thompson
Miss Catherine Caperton
Marian Galbreath
Miss Mozelle Caperton
Marian Galbreath
Elmer A. Caples
Mr. & Mrs. H. O. Hale
Jack Carmean
Mr. & Mrs. N. W. Carpenter, Jr.

Mr. Gilbert A. Carothers, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Frank T. Moore
R. B. Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Mrs. R. D. Cardledge
Mrs. Louise Leber
Kathryn C. Cassidy
Ann C. Fitzpatrick
Mrs. Morris Coston
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Mabry
Mr. L. E. Caver
Mr. & Mrs. Noel Mills
Miss Callie D. Chism
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Fore
Peter Chow
Mrs. W. A. Hughes
Mr. John W. Clevinger
Shuqualak Baptist Church
Hatten Eddie Cockrell, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Carlisle
Mrs. Sarah Allie Coker
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Mabry
Mr. Coleman
Mr. & Mrs. Wade C. Donnell
Mrs. Vera Collier
Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Hawkins
Mrs. Madge Black
Mrs. L. B. Collins
Forest Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Copekey
Mrs. Leslie Turner
Mrs. Martha Cooper
Mrs. R. C. Still
Mr. R. L. Cooper
Mrs. Mildred Whitten
Mr. Percy Cothern
Siloam Baptist Church
Mrs. Bryan Courtney
Dr. & Mrs. John S. Whitfield
Mrs. Louise Hunter Crigler
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Robbins
Miss Moselle Holbert
Thursday Club, Macon
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Adams
Dr. & Mrs. W. C. Anderson
Mr. J. L. Klaus, Jr.
Mrs. George D. Demarest
Ellenor O. Shannon
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Wiley Lantz
Mrs. Stella Ford Currie
T. E. L. Sunday School Class, Macon

Mr. Tom W. Crockett
Mrs. H. M. Kendall
Mrs. Lena L. Cutler
Mr. & Mrs. Leopold Williams
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Jennings
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Stewart
Lena Dahlman
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Malone
Ben DuBose
Mr. & Mrs. William P. Strait
Betty Easley
Mr. & Mrs. Willis H. Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Thomas
Betty & Wade Easley
Young Married Adult No. 2, Mathiston
Betty & William Easley
Young Adult No. 2, Mathiston
William Easley
Mr. and Mrs. Duane Thomas
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Katherine Stevens
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Mrs. Leslie Turner
Mrs. Mildred T. Flanagan
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Thompson, Jr.
Bennie Frazier
Mr. Owen Garrett
S. T. Gordon
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Cunningham
Jim Graham
Mr. & Mrs. Palmer Harrison
Bill Grainger
Mrs. Oma G. Scott
Ruby C. Grayson
Mrs. J. C. Hammond
Mrs. Carolyn G. Greene
Mr. & Mrs. Sam T. Carter
Mr. John Gregory
Rena Lara Baptist Church
Mr. Hubbard Hargrove
Mrs. Daniel B. Watson
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Morris
Jaune Harris
Mary Ann Edgar
Mrs. Zelma Harlock
Maye C. Joyce
Irene L. Moore
Mrs. Elise M. Curtis

Alumni to meet Aug. 14 at India Nunnery campus

The Alumni Reunion Association of The Baptist Children's Village will convene in its bi-annual session in Powell Chapel on the India Nunnery Campus on Saturday, August 14, 1982.

All former residents and staff members of Mississippi Baptist Orphanage or The Baptist Children's Village are cordially invited and urged to join us

on that occasion for a delightful and informal reunion with friends and acquaintances.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in Powell Chapel and the program will begin at 10 a.m.

All alumni and their families will be guests of Village staff and children at a luncheon to be served in Hester Activities Building at noon.

David L. Harper
Mr. Hayes Branscome
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Keeton, Jr.
Mrs. Madge Angevin
R. L. Hatch
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Orr
Mr. & Mrs. Ollie P. Williams
Mr. Ed Haven
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Robinson
Mrs. Della Mae Haydel
Mrs. Elry B. Hill
Mrs. Robert E. Rushing
Mr. Walker J. Carney, Jr.
Mr. Thomas W. Hays
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Fore
Mrs. L. M. Heard
Mr. & Mrs. Don R. Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Taylor Webb
Mr. & Mrs. Earl B. Allen
Mr. John W. Cope, Bank of Hollandale
Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Andrews
Mrs. Irene E. Rousseau
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Shawblosky
Mrs. Leo T. Wellman
Mr. & Mrs. D. O. Baker
Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Wicks
Mr. E. O. Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest E. Johnson
Mrs. Edith Henderson
Mrs. Verta O'Neill
Mr. Edgar Holliman
Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Boyte
Mrs. Travis Hood
Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Trotman
Mr. William E. Howard, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. O. Barnett, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Howcutt
Mrs. Mabel Howell
Mr. & Mrs. Sam T. Carter
Mr. Charles N. Hughes
Mrs. Nora Thomas
Mrs. Viva Bell Humphreys
Mr. & Mrs. John Miller, Jr.
Mrs. Earnest D. Hunter
T. E. L. Sunday School Class, Macon
Mrs. Essie Mae Hunter
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew B. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. George M. Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley L. Perkins
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Wethern, III
Infant Sons of Mr. & Mrs. David Easley
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Smith
Booster Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Jackson
Wallace Ross Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. S. O. Kuykendall
Mr. & Mrs. Fred O. Nash
Mrs. N. W. Carr
Fannie Ratcliff Sunday School Class, Gloster
Mr. Walker J. Carney, Jr.
Mrs. Lilly Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Robinson
Mrs. F. W. Kerney
Ms. Sally Horne

J. A. Killebrew
Mr. & Mrs. T. F. Flowers
Misty Lyn Ledlow
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon L. Sikes
Mrs. A. J. Little
Gleaners Sunday School Class, Crystal Springs
Lavern Long
Mrs. Percy Barnett
Ms. Faye Looney
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Staton
Frank Lowery
Mrs. Myrtle C. Smith
Mr. William E. Lucas
Mr. & Mrs. W. O. Barnett, Jr.
Mr. R. E. Martin
Mrs. Roy B. Fowles
Mrs. S. M. Crain
Mrs. Lena Martindale
Miss Jessie Van Osdal
Megan Gwin McCarthy
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Criss
Mrs. John McCormick
Mr. & Mrs. N. Brown
Mrs. Hattie M. McCoy
Mr. Robert Bradford
Mrs. Mary McDonnell
Kathie Lewis
Bruce & Ann Bass
Camille & Harold McIlwain
Mr. & Mrs. Harold L. McIlwain
Mrs. H. D. McLemore
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Bailey, Jr.
Mr. Hugh McMurphy
Forest Baptist Church, Forest
David McRae
Mark & Becky Partin
J. J. Meyers
Mrs. Essie F. Meyers
Mr. Sam Mims
Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Sims
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Orr
Mr. Homer Morgan
The Sewing Circle
Mrs. Alma Morrison
Mr. W. D. Beach
Mrs. Eva Myers
Mr. & Mrs. Warren E. Ragland
Mrs. Joe M. Stubblefield
Mrs. Lillian Nettles
Dr. & Mrs. Martin Livingston
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Mrs. Poole Noel
Frank J. Pajerski
Mr. L. E. Norman
Mrs. Warren Fortenberry
Miss Verna Oden
Mr. & Mrs. P. L. McIntosh
Mr. F. A. Ogletree
Mr. & Mrs. T. W. McNair
Mrs. Junior O'Mara
Mrs. H. M. Kendall
Mrs. Elizabeth O'Neal
Mr. & Mrs. Sanford McNemar
J. A. O'Neal
Mrs. Elise M. Curtis
Brooks Owings
Mrs. Reba Stoddard
Reid Owings
Mrs. Reba Stoddard

Mr. Louis L. Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Marsalis
Mr. Ralph Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Arthur
Mrs. Boyd Sheppard
Mr. George H. Pigg
Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Byrd, Jr.
Harry Poag, Sr.
James W. Boover
Mrs. Mattie R. Posey
Betty S. Cooper & Cathy & Carrie
Mrs. Mary Frank Power
Mrs. N. L. Douglass
Mr. Meadow B. Pressgrove
Cassella Baptist Church
Billy Austin Prestwood
Mr. & Mrs. Wade C. Donnell
Mr. & Mrs. R. T. Price
Mrs. Leslie Turner
Mr. Raymond Reese
Mr. & Mrs. James Hitt
Mr. Fred Rigdon
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Lanier
Mr. & Mrs. H. R. Riley
Marian Galbreath
Mrs. Clemmie Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Albert R. King
Mr. R. H. Rupperecht
Mrs. Lottie F. Benson
Mrs. Bertha Sampson
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Criss
Mr. Ambrose Scott
Mrs. Lucile H. Hooks
Frank Seago
Edith M. Aldridge
Sister of Mrs. Doyle Cummings
Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Sims
Judge O. R. Smith
Mrs. Morris G. Graves
Mrs. Aline H. Dean
Mr. Cecil Sparks
Forest Baptist Church, Forest
James Stockton
Mary O. Duke
Mrs. Mary Strickling
Mrs. Marguerite C. Webb
Buford Steward
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence M. Lowery
Mr. Joe M. Stubblefield
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Russell
Hubert Sumrall
Fellowship Sunday School Class, Crestwood Baptist Church
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Mrs. Betty Dale Touchstone
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Mrs. Robert M. Touchstone
Mrs. Roy B. Fowles
Mrs. Sue Townsend
Mrs. Lucile H. Hooks
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Mrs. Alen Traewek
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Cross
Mrs. Edna Underwood
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Mrs. Lona Varnado
First Baptist Church, Bude
Mary Vaughney
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Mrs. Nina Waldrop
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T. E. Walters
Mrs. T. E. Walters
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Mrs. Lawrence W. Long
Mr. Bowman Weber
Mrs. Nora N. Thomas
Mr. C. P. Wells
Mrs. Clyde Dampeier
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Mr. & Mrs. Truett Helms
Mrs. Lena Yopp
Mrs. N. L. Douglass
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Keeton, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Burt

Special Boy

For John Strahan, who was so ill and suffered so much until God called him on the evening of July 23, we thank hundreds of you who sustained him through months of pain by your prayers, spoken and written expressions of concern, and repeated material expressions of friendship. This special little boy, whose memory is treasured by all of us at The Village, learned about the good life, and how to live it, despite the hurt of his fatal illness, because so many of you joined in sharing the love of God with him. The Children's Village is a better place with a more caring ministry because John and you helped make it so.

We offer a special thanks to Rhonda Nabers, of Booneville; Renee DuBose, of Hattiesburg; and Donna Wise of Gautier who have served so faithfully as BSU summer missionaries. We love them.

Just for the Record . . .



BABY DAY was observed on May 30 at First Baptist Church, West Point. During the morning service, parents and babies were recognized. David E. Hall is pastor.



SARDIS CHURCH, SMITH COUNTY, recently burned the note on its new pastorum. Construction began in February, 1980, and the \$36,792 house was paid for by April, 1982. The church borrowed \$28,000. Fifth Sunday offerings and 10% of all offerings went to the building fund. Youths donated and set out shrubbery. Other members donated time. Left to right: Wayne Adams, pastor; Clark Craft, Building Committee chairman; R. C. Gibbons, Cooper Smith, Nicky Walker, Prentis Adcock, Jerry Powell, and (in front) John Adcock. Other building committee members were Franklin Arnold, Elrie Jones, Billy Hall, and Jeff Smith (deceased).



Trinity Baptist Church Youth Choir of Laurel, under direction of Thomas Winn, was on tour July 21-25 singing in churches in Alabama and Georgia. They have given concerts in Laurel at Sharon First Baptist Church and at their home church. The pastor of Trinity Church is Alben Gaston.

Bible Book

Lament for a nation

By Gene Henderson, pastor,
Fairview, Columbus

Psalm 77:1-20; 85:1-13 (NASB)
In the midst of today's economic chaos, the frustrations and faith of many are like that of the poet who penned Psalms 77 and 85. Questions about himself, the nation, and God loomed large against the black backdrop of calamity. Similar frustrations and questions were experienced. Only by reflection upon the past acts of God and by reaffirming faith in the character of God could the psalmist see the light of a brighter day. In these two Psalms, progression is made from present doubt to past history and from past history to future hope.

I. From present doubt to past history (Psalm 77:1-20)

Have you ever longed for the "good old days?" In times of distress, memory of former good days accentuates the present trouble. Perhaps, such was the experience of the psalmist in 77:1-6. The harder he prayed and the more he recalled the joys that used to be, the darker the night seemed to become. He could not sleep. He became confused. Thoughts of God caused him alarm. Perhaps he found himself doubting the reality of God. To say the least, he feared losing faith in God.

As the psalmist pondered in the night, he asked searching questions that restored his faith. Had God rejected his people forever? Would he never again bless? Had he terminated his covenant love and promise? Had God abandoned the grace and compassion which he had revealed as his essential nature? Only one answer was possible. Lack of faith brought on by the infirmity and grief of present circumstances raised these questions. God had not changed!

Verse 10 is a pivotal verse. Regardless of translation, the context indicates that the psalmist turned to recall the immutable nature of God rooted in past events. In 77:11-20 the psalmist extols the greatness of God. The exodus from Egypt and the Mt. Sinai encounter with God stood out in his mind. In verse 11 he uses the redemptive name Yah revealed to Moses. The poetic description of vv. 16-19 accord with the exodus and Sinai events, although some scholars associate the imagery with creation and the exodus. As he mused over God's past deeds and wonders, the psalmist concluded that God's way was beyond question (77:19). None could be compared to God. He had redeemed his people (77:15). He was the good shepherd (77:20).

II. From past history to future hope (Psalm 85:1-13)

Psalm 85 seems to take up where

Psalm 77 left off, although they are unrelated historically and chronologically. The Psalm begins with a catalog of God's past beneficent actions (85:1-3). He had shown favor, restored the fortunes, forgiven depravity, covered waywardness, withdrawn wrath, and turned away anger. Remembering these past mercies moved the psalmist to pray about the present distress.

Even though God had been gracious in forgiveness and restoration, much more remained to be done. Verses 4-7 probably represent a corporate prayer. It is a prayer that God would bless with full salvation and cease to be provoked by them. The lamenting questions of vv. 5-6 constitute petitions for God's presence which brings salvation. "Thou" is in emphatic position in verse 6. By his intervention God could restore the nation.

God has acted graciously to our nation. But amid the complex economic questions and global unrest, the prayer of this Psalm expresses our only hope.

God's answer to the prayer is found in 85:8-13. The psalmist or a prophet listened for God's answer and conveyed the assurance of God's response to them. "Everything will be all right, but guard against turning again to foolishness" (85:8). The oracle is expanded with the promise that God is near those who fear him. His presence will descend upon the land. As a result, the land will be filled with harmony and concord: spiritually, morally, and materially. Verses 10-12 present a beautiful picture of harmony: on earth (v. 10), between heaven and earth (v. 11), and in the earth (v. 12). His presence will show men the way of righteousness in which they should go (85:13).

Psalm 85 is highly messianic. The prayer of this Psalm was answered in the Incarnation. In Christ came the message of peace (85:8, Lk. 2:14), the presence of salvation (85:9, Mt. 1:21), the coming together of lovingkindness with truth and righteousness with peace (85:10, Jn. 1:17) and righteousness making a path for men to walk in. However, the full completion of this reality awaits the second coming of Christ and consummation.

Names in the News

Tom Lester will speak to the youth at Chester Baptist Church, Choctaw County, at 6 p.m., Aug. 8, and will also be in charge of the 7 p.m. worship service. Lester played Eb in the "Green Acres" TV show.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CARTHAGE, on Parent-Baby Dedication Sunday recognized three women with combined service of over 100 years of working with children in church. The pastor, Eddie Hamilton, presented plaques to Mrs. W. M. Scrivner, over 40 years in Cradle Roll Department; Mrs. Lillie Vowell, 36 years as nursery worker; and Mrs. Lena Hamil, 25 years as nursery worker. Hamilton said, "Without the dedication and faithfulness of these three, many parents could not have attended church classes, choir rehearsal, and other worship activities." Left to right are Hamilton, Scrivner, Hamil, Vowell.



WHITE OAK BAPTIST CHURCH (SMITH COUNTY) held a GA recognition service July 11. The theme was "My Promise to God." Girls in Action recognized were D'Avandra Dukes, Casey Fulton, and Bonnie Runnels, Adventures 1 and 2; Debbie Martin, Adventure 1; Darlene Dukes, Melva Glass, and Shelly Traxler, Adventure 5; Danya Derrick, Sandy Wooley, and Tress Zeigler, Adventure 6. Mrs. Charles Runnels and Kim Zeigler are the GA leaders.



FOURTEEN ACTEENS AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, AMORY, received crowns and seven received scepters in the church's first recognition service. The theme was "His Way Mine—Challenged—Committed." Acteens president is Mary Prestridge. Acteens director is Mrs. J. R. Lewis. The pastor is Jerry Massey.

Uniform

Barnabas: a good man

By Charles S. Davis, associate
professor of Bible, MC
Acts 4:34-37; 9:26-27; 11:19-26; 13:1-3;
15:36-40

A rather loud and raucous song popular during my teenage years had as its opening words, "A good man is hard to find; you always seem to get the other kind." To some extent the Bible would agree with that assessment, for only a select few persons are labeled as "good men." Barnabas is called a "good man" (Acts 11:24) and a "son of encouragement" (Acts 4:36, RSV)—and he lived up to that assessment and his name in all circumstances.

I. Barnabas: encourager of the church (Acts 4:32-37)

Barnabas' first appearance on the scene in Acts is the occasion when he sold a piece of land and gave the proceeds to the apostles in order to help meet the needs of the church in Jerusalem. This generous-hearted good man must have encouraged the entire church by this voluntary, unselfish act. He also set a pattern of sacrificial giving for Christians in every generation.

A good trivia question would be, "What was Barnabas' original name?" It was Joseph, but hardly anyone remembers that. It didn't stick, but his nickname "Barnabas" did. The name means "son of encouragement," and it was given to him by the apostles. We shall see how he lived up to that name, for his disposition was always to help and to encourage.

II. Barnabas: encourager of Paul (Acts 9:26-27)

Barnabas believed that it was better to take a chance on a man and lose than to lose a man because you refuse to give him a chance! He knew Paul's reputation as an enthusiastic and fanatical persecutor of the early church. But he also knew about his life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ on the Damascus road.

With a strong belief in God and an instinctive trust in human nature, Barnabas stood up for Paul before the apostles and the church in Jerusalem when they were not willing to trust the newcomer. From that day forward Paul mingled freely with the disciples—all because Barnabas encouraged him to become all that God intended him to be.

III. Barnabas: encourager of new Christians (Acts 11:19-26)

The church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to check on the evangelistic explosion in Antioch. He was gladdened by what he found as he saw God's grace at work. He encouraged the new disciples to dedicate themselves to

God. He became a leader in the church at Antioch, and he helped to weld this diverse group of people into a strong body of believers.

When the church at Antioch grew so rapidly that Barnabas needed help, he knew just where to find it. He personally made a trip to Tarsus and brought back Paul. The two of them worked as effective team teachers for a full year.

It was here in Antioch that the followers of Jesus were first called Christians, perhaps in derision. Whether given in contempt or not, the Christians by their lives made it a name of respect and admiration.

IV. Barnabas: encourager of missions (Acts 13:1-3)

When the Holy Spirit's message came to the worshipping church at Antioch to set aside Barnabas and Paul for missions, apparently the two men had already felt the Spirit's call. When the church also felt that it was God's will that they go, they sent our Barnabas and Paul as the first foreign missionaries.

Not long into the first missionary journey, Paul became the leader of the missionary expedition (see Acts 13:13). Although Barnabas had started out as the leader of the group, it soon became "Paul and his friends." Barnabas was one of those rare people who did not care who got the credit so long as God's work was done. He willingly subordinated himself to the leadership of Paul thus becoming an example of Christian humility and an encourager once again of Paul and his mission work.

V. Barnabas: encourager of Mark (Acts 15:36-40)

When Paul was ready to leave on his second missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take Mark along again, even though he had deserted the team during the first tour. Paul thought it best not to take Mark, and an argument arose between Paul and Barnabas. As a result, the two men parted company, although it is apparent later that both Barnabas and Mark were restored to the good graces of Paul (see I Corinthians 9:6; II Timothy 4:11).

Perhaps Mark needed what he got from both men to become what God intended him to be. Paul taught him the importance of commitment to a task and provided the discipline that he needed. Barnabas offered to Mark, a young man who had failed, a second chance—thus giving him the encouragement he needed. Who knows? It just might be that we owe the gospel of Mark to the willingness of Barnabas the encourager to stand up for Mark when he needed the good news of a second chance.

Missionary News

Donald and Rose McCain, missionaries to Portugal, may be addressed at Alameda Conde de Oeiras 25, Oeiras 2780, Portugal. He was born in Greenville, Miss. She was born in Eudora.

Thomas and Wanda Newton, missionaries to Korea, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 615 Lallah St., Pineville, La. 71360). She was born in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Janet Dickerson, missionary journeyman to Yemen, has completed her two-year term of service and returned to the States (address: 703 Washington St., Booneville, MS 38829).

Ronnie and Beth Parker, missionaries to Brazil, may be addressed at Caixa 2662, 60000 Fortaleza, CE, Brazil. He was born in Hattiesburg, she was born in New Orleans, and also has lived in Hattiesburg and Biloxi.

Grace and Virgil Colson, missionary associates to Liberia, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 521 Bankhead Highway, S.E., Mableton, Ga. 30059). She was born in Clinton, Miss.

Betty Hart, of Sandy Hook, missionary to Chile, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Casilla 197, Antofagasta, Chile).

Jerry and Bobbie Rankin, missionaries to Indonesia, may be addressed at Jalan Cisangkuy 58, Bandung, Indonesia.

Sherry and Robert Sims, missionaries to Ghana, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 400, Accra, Ghana). She is from Jackson.

Tony and Kathy Latham, missionaries to the Philippines, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 46 Sherwood Dr., Jackson, Tenn. 38301). He is a native of Jackson. She is from Kosciusko.

Jerald and Elaine Perrill, missionaries to Thailand, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Box 832, Bangkok, Thailand).

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Ray, missionary associates to Japan, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: 23-13 4-chome, Chuo Rinkan Yamatoshi, Kanagawa-ken 242, Japan).

Major and June McDaniel, missionary associates to Korea, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Box 467, Clinton, Miss. 39056).

John and Kathy McNair, missionaries, have transferred from Spain to Uruguay (address: Casilla 14052, Montevideo, Uruguay). They are natives of Mississippi.

James and Charlotte Walker, missionaries to Malawi, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o Carol Walker, Samford University, Box 354, Birmingham, Ala. 35229). She was born in Mobile, and lived in Mississippi, while growing up.

Devotional

When extravagance is desirable

By Gary Knapp, pastor, Griffith Memorial, Jackson
John 12:3

Recently, a priest friend and I were having lunch and "talking shop." We were discussing our similarities and differences when, reactionary that I am, I began to question some of his elaborate worship practices: I must have reinforced previous impressions of Baptists, for he found me to be consistent with a pattern that questions anything beyond that which is perceived as absolutely essential. He went on to explain a stereotyped evangelical interpretation of the Philippian jailer's question, "What must I do to be saved?" as "What is the very least I can get by with?" His words were painful, for I realized my own definite tendency to reduce everything to a "bottom line" proposition.

The great pitfall of this approach is the development of what I will call, for lack of better terminology, a "Theology of Minimalism." The basis of all motivation then becomes necessity rather than gratitude. Economy of effort is the norm, and any hint of extravagance is viewed with suspicion.

In his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer warns against preaching a "cheap grace," for it is certainly in direct contrast with the teachings of our Lord about the kingdom person. I cannot visualize our Lord preaching, "Look, all you gotta do is . . ."

Our text suggests an alternative to minimalism. The abandonment with which Mary adores our Lord is a model for the kind of extravagance that is not only acceptable but desirable. When she was criticized for her extravagance, our Lord defended her and endorsed her actions. We would do well to earn a reputation such as hers.

Life and Work

Pressing toward maturity

By David McCubbin, associate pastor,
1st, Meridian

Hebrews 5:12, 14; 6:1-2, 4-9, 11-12
Think of situations where, it is desired to get the most out of something. An athlete trains to get the very best that he possibly can from himself in the sporting event, a farmer will plant a new variety of seed and try different approaches in order to get more bushels to the acre.

The writer of Hebrews was concerned that his readers should not give up their Christian faith. But he also wanted them to get the most possible from their faith relationship with Jesus. He encouraged them to press on to maturity, wholeness, completeness.

One of the great tragedies is that there are so many professing Christians who make so little effort to grow in their faith. By their own choices they limit their exposure to the Word of God. They demonstrate little confidence in their relationship with Christ. They are afraid to launch out in service. Many have been in classrooms for years and are still little further along the growth scale than when they started.

Jesus and his saving work offers so very much to the believer. It was in his effort to get this across that the author of Hebrews felt a lot of frustration. His readers had been Christians long enough that they should have enough experience and information to begin to understand what he was telling them. But contrary to this he saw their instability as a result of lazy minds that didn't take seriously the need to learn and grow. The "dull of hearing" (5:11) is plain apathy.

Our larger lesson, 5:11-6:12 is an interlude in the author's discussion of the high priesthood of Jesus. This interlude came because of his frustration over the immaturity of his readers. It seems to me he was saying that there are only two ways we can go. We can either progress or regress in our Christian experience. To fail to go forward, to press toward maturity, is to go backward.

To press toward maturity is to come to the point that we can share what we know with others (5:12). To know is one stage. To share what we know, to guide others to come to know what we know is another. The message concerning Jesus is designed for the world. Its very nature requires that it be shared. To be apathetic toward a message that is needed to change our lives and is intended to be shared with others is unthinkable. A baby is supposed to grow up. It is absurd for a grown person to take a bottle like a baby. "It is more blessed to give than

to receive" (Acts 20:35). Only one who has matured enough to share will derive the most from his faith.

To press toward maturity is to be able to discern between right and wrong and decide for right (5:14). Distinguishing between right and wrong requires a knowledge of God's word. It also requires a faith-walk with the Lord so that we can know his mind in applying the principles of his word to specific situations in life. But maturity requires decision also. It's not enough to discern between the two, one must go ahead and decide. Note KJV " . . . by reason of use . . ." and RSV "faculties trained by practice . . ."

People are doing great harm to themselves and to the Kingdom in knowing what they ought to do but refusing to do it. Failure to decide is a great obstacle to Christian maturity. Indecision causes many to regress in their Christian lives.

To press toward maturity is to be sure the foundation is solid. You can't build securely on a wobbly foundation. "Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrines of Christ and go on to maturity . . ." (6:1 RSV). Jesus is the foundation. He's not wobbly, he is secure. If there is an awareness of insecurity it may well be because we're depending on the wrong thing for salvation. We need our lives planted on the bedrock of Christ and having laid the foundation, build. The areas mentioned; repentance, faith, laying on of hands, resurrection and judgment are expressions related to a solid faith-commitment to Jesus as Savior and Lord. Having a solid foundation, we press on.

To press toward maturity is to be true to Jesus (6:4-9). There is no way to turn from sin (repentance) without turning to Jesus. If one has repented Jesus he can't possibly repent (6:4). Sin becomes again a barrier in his relationship with God and he will be unable to produce godly works in his life. I see the person as suffering great loss, but he himself will be saved; yet so as by fire (I Cor. 3:15).

Let us press on then, fixing our eyes on Jesus, and drawing encouragement from others who have persevered and watch our struggle from above (12:1-2).

Newcastle - under - Lyme, England
—Baptist minister John Eccleston has married one of his deacons, Miss Jean Wilkins, a former biochemist in India. West Midlands Area superintendent Neil Hall conducted the ceremony before a crowded congregation.